Marine Corps Air Station Santa Barbara



The United States Marine Corps developed Air Station Santa Barbara between 1942 and 1946. The 1,494 acre site covered most of the area from north of Hollister Avenue (then U.S. 101) to the ocean, between today's Los Carneros Road and Fairview Avenue, including what is now Santa Barbara Airport, UCSB and Goleta Beach. During the four-year development and operation of the base, the Marine Corps invested over \$10 million to construct 103 buildings and pave more than 5.5 million square feet of runways, taxiways, aircraft ramps and roads. This 1954 aerial photo of the completed Air Station was taken 8 years after the Marine Corps relinguished control of the 580 acre leased Airport property and deeded an additional 346 acres to the City of Santa Barbara for continued use as a civilian airport. In contrast, the color photo in the lower right shows development at and around the Airport as of 2008.